

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

**PCT**

**TRANSLATION**

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year)
Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>P05230600</b>		<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See paragraph 2 below
International application No. <b>PCT/JP2005/002573</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>18.02.2005</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>18.02.2004</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC		
Applicant <b>MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.</b>		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.  
PCT/JP2005/002573

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material
    - a sequence listing
    - table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material
    - in written format
    - in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing
    - contained in the international application as filed.
    - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
    - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3.  In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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<b>Box No. V</b> <u>Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or Industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</u>	
<b>1. Statement</b>	
Novelty (N)	Claims <u>2, 4</u> YES <u>1, 3</u> NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>2, 4</u> YES <u>1, 3</u> NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-4</u> YES Claims _____ NO
<b>2. Citations and explanations:</b>	
<p>Document 1: JP 9-7352 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.) 10 October 1997</p> <p>The inventions described in claims 1 and 3 do not appear to be novel or to involve an inventive step because they are described in Par. Nos. 0018-0056 and Fig. 1 of document 1 cited in the ISR. In the technology described in document 1, memory (corresponds to the "storage means") is divided into a first song beginning storage area—last song beginning storage area (corresponds to the "first area"), where at least one piece of audio data of a predetermined length of at least one tract is stored, and an area (corresponds to the "second area") managed via addresses A-D, where the remaining audio data of the track is stored, and, during playback, the disk is accessed and audio data of a predetermined length, measured from the beginning as the starting point, is written to said beginning storage areas. During the playback of said audio data of a predetermined length, said remaining audio data is written to the area managed via addresses A-D, such that said audio data of a predetermined length and said remaining audio data are read out in a continuous fashion.</p> <p>The inventions of claims 2 and 4 are not described in any of the documents cited in the ISR and are not obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p>	

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Box No. VI	Certain documents cited			
1.	Certain published documents (Rule 43bis.1 and 70.10)			
Application No. Patent No.	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)	
<b>JP 2004-71029 A</b>	<b>04.03.2004</b>	<b>05.08.2002</b>		
<b>[P, X]</b>				
2.	Non-written disclosures (Rule 43bis.1 and 70.9)			
Kind of non-written disclosure	Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year)		